GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3482
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
LIFTING OF BAN ON SHAHTOOSH TRADING
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have put a ban on trading of shahtoosh;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that shahtoosh ban has freezed the livelihood of more than 30,000 workers in the valley and worsened their economic condition;

(c) if so, whether there is a demand to lift the said ban or make some relaxations; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Tibetan antelope, commonly known as Chiru, is listed in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 as well as the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act 1978 and hence the trade in Shahtoosh, which is a wildlife product made from wool obtained from Chiru, is banned. Further, regarding the loss of livelihood to the Shahtoosh workers the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has reported that a comprehensive programme has been initiated to rehabilitate Kashmiri Shahtoosh artisans to wean them away from Shahtoosh based trade.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.